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PROGRESS IN THE INCORPORATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION TO ENSURE THAT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES ARE INCORPORATED IN PROGRAMMES AND PROCESSES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report covers major areas of activities related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and outlines new initiatives and processes launched within the system to incorporate sustainable development principles into programmes at all levels. The Commission on Sustainable Development, in monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, will be called upon to play an important role in advising the Economic and Social Council on ways and means to ensure better coordination and complementarity of efforts among all concerned organizations at the national, regional and international levels.

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INTRODUCTION

1. Agenda 21 1/ contains more than 2,500 activities in 115 programme areas, many of which are addressed to the United Nations system as a whole and/or specific agencies, programmes and organizations. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development recommended that Agenda 21, as the basis for action by the international community to integrate environment and development, should provide the principal framework for coordination of relevant activities within the United Nations system.

2. The Conference further recommended that the task to ensure effective monitoring, coordination and supervision of the involvement of the United Nations system in the follow-up to the Conference be given to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), under the direct leadership of the Secretary-General. ACC would thus provide a vital link and interface between the multilateral financial institutions and other United Nations bodies at the highest administrative level. The Conference invited all heads of agencies and institutions of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General fully in order to make ACC work effectively in fulfilling its crucial role and ensure successful implementation of Agenda 21. It was also recommended that ACC should consider establishing a special task force, subcommittee or sustainable development board. Recommendations contained in Agenda 21 were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/190.

3. Furthermore, the General Assembly in resolution 47/191, on institutional arrangements to follow up the Conference, requests all United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations of the system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term plans, as appropriate, in line with Agenda 21. Organizations are requested to make their reports on steps they have taken to give effect to the recommendation available to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council in 1993 or, at the latest, in 1994, in accordance with Article 64 of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. The Assembly further invites all relevant governing bodies to ensure that the tasks assigned to them are carried out effectively, including the publication of reports on a regular basis, on the activities of the organs, programmes and organizations for which the bodies are responsible, and that continuous reviews are undertaken of their policies, programmes, budgets and activities. It further invites the World Bank and other international, regional and subregional financial and development institutions, including global environmental facilities (GEF), to submit regularly reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development with information on their experience, activities and plans to implement Agenda 21.

5. In paragraph 16 of the same resolution the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, for the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, a report on progress in the incorporation of recommendations of the Conference in the activities of international organizations and measures undertaken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure that sustainable development principles are incorporated into programmes and processes within the United Nations system. The Commission

on Sustainable Development at its organizational session decided to include a corresponding item in the agenda of its substantive session.

General observations

6. The results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development are having a profound and far-reaching effect on the programmes and priorities of relevant organizations of the United Nations system. All of them are currently undertaking intensive reviews of their work programmes, reordering priorities and, wherever feasible, shifting resources in order to concentrate on assisting countries in meeting key objectives of Agenda 21 in their respective areas of competence.

7. The Administrative Committee on Coordination has placed the issues of the Conference follow-up high on its agenda. In line with recommendations of the Conference, the existing ACC machinery and other inter-agency coordination arrangements are being streamlined and reorganized substantially to achieve greater complementarity and synergy in giving practical shape to the programme areas of Agenda 21.

8. The newly established Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development has met and launched a process of intensive review of the activities of the organizations of the system with a view to enhancing inter-agency coordination and developing an effective response to Agenda 21. In the course of this process, allocation and sharing of responsibilities for implementation of Agenda 21, areas of unnecessary duplication of effort, possible gaps and opportunities for cooperation will be identified. The full text of the ACC statement to the Commission on Sustainable Development is contained in section I below.

9. Success in the process launched by ACC, with the assistance of the Inter-Agency Committee, aimed at ensuring that sustainable development principles are incorporated into programmes and processes within the United Nations system would require thorough examination of current work programmes and intensive interaction of all organizations involved, both at the administrative and working levels. Certain measures proposed or elaborated on in order to streamline activities of various organizations of the system and of the United Nations itself would require consideration and approval by respective intergovernmental organs within the system. For that reason the Secretary-General attaches great importance to the implementation of the recommendation of the Conference contained in paragraph 38.20 of Agenda 21 - namely, that coordination and mutual complementarity of efforts of programmes and organizations of the United Nations system to promote integration of environment and development can be enhanced through countries maintaining consistent positions in the various governing bodies.

10. Section II of the present report is prepared on the basis of information received from agencies and programmes of the United Nations system. It covers major areas of activities related to the implementation of Agenda 21 as well as new initiatives and processes launched within the system to implement the results of the Conference and incorporate sustainable development principles at all programme levels. In light of considerations outlined above, more detailed

information on actions taken by the system to readjust programmes and priorities in line with Agenda 21 requirements will be presented to the Commission in subsequent reports, when relevant proposals will be elaborated by the Inter-Agency Committee and ACC, and corresponding actions will be taken by relevant governing organs.

11. In its resolution 47/191 the General Assembly requested the Governing Councils of UNEP and UNDP and the Trade and Development Board (TDB) to examine the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21 at their next sessions and submit reports on their specific plans to implement Agenda 21 to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session through the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council. The present report contains a general outline of the activities of those organizations, but more detailed information can be found in their respective reports. Furthermore, the present report does not cover relevant activities of regional commissions which, in accordance with Council decision 1993/213, are expected to make their reports on plans to implement Agenda 21 available to the Commission in 1993 or, at the latest, in 1994.

12. For practical reasons the information contained in the present report is organized, as far as possible, along the clusters of chapters of Agenda 21 recommended by the organizational session of the Commission on Sustainable Development for consideration as the basis for its multi-year programme of work. In some cases, nevertheless, information received from agencies is relevant to several thematic clusters, due to the interrelated nature of various chapters of Agenda 21. Such information is included in the report under the cluster headings that appear to be most relevant.

I. STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

13. At its first regular session of 1993, held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, from 19 to 21 April 1993, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) noted with satisfaction that the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development had initiated a process for the allocation and sharing of responsibilities among the organizations of the United Nations system for the implementation of Agenda 21. It agreed that a basic challenge for the system would be to achieve more effective country- and regional-level coordination and to develop closer cooperation among organizations around specific issues and programmes relating to Agenda 21. It emphasized that mobilization of adequate resources was a key element of the effort to meet that challenge. It welcomed the fact that one of the main issues on the agenda of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its first session would be the role and contribution of the United Nations system in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

14. Following an exchange of views, ACC adopted the following statement 2/ for transmittal to the Commission on Sustainable Development:

> "1. ACC welcomes the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development and offers its full support to the Commission in meeting the daunting challenge of achieving sustainable development. It looks forward

to policy guidance from the Commission in the process of translating the mandates emanating from the Rio Conference, and Agenda 21 in particular, into a coherent set of priorities and programmes for the United Nations system.

"2. In the short time since the Rio Conference, ACC has initiated actions in a variety of ways and at all levels to follow up its decisions. The ACC itself, as the principal inter-agency coordination mechanism for policy decision-making, has placed this question high on its agenda. The existing ACC subsidiary machinery and other inter-agency coordination arrangements are being streamlined and reorganized substantially to achieve greater complementarity and synergy in giving practical shape to the programme areas of Agenda 21. The newly established Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development has met and launched a process of intensive review of the activities of the organizations of the UN system with a view to enhancing inter-agency coordination and developing an effective response to Agenda 21.

"3. The results of Rio are having a profound and far-reaching effect on the programmes and priorities of the organizations of the system. They are undertaking intensive reviews of their work programmes, reordering their priorities and wherever feasible shifting resources in order to concentrate on assisting countries in meeting the key objectives of Agenda 21 in their respective areas of competence.

"4. As it begins its first substantive session, ACC wishes to draw the attention of the Commission to three key issues: allocation and sharing of responsibilities for implementation of Agenda 21, coordination of the UN system and financing.

"5. Regarding coordination, ACC intends to ensure that existing activities would be oriented to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the sharing of responsibilities will be defined. The basic challenge will be to achieve more effective country and regional level coordination as well as to develop closer coordination and cooperation among agencies around specific issues and programmes. To these ends, the following process will be pursued:

"(a) At the field level, inter-agency coordination structures will take full account of national and regional objectives of Agenda 21;

"(b) At the international level, each organization will pursue the review of its programming and budgetary processes in the light of thematic areas of Agenda 21 with a view to reordering priorities and reorienting existing activities; identifying additional or new activities that should be carried out in response to Agenda 21 and the corresponding financial requirements; and indicating arrangements for cooperation and coordination with other agencies and whether these are adequate or need improvement;

"(c) Each organization will be requested to indicate programme areas of Agenda 21 for which they would have the capacity to make a substantial contribution and the Chairman of IACSD will designate task managers from the entire system for coordination and joint programming, taking into account the criteria suggested by the ACC Task Force on Environment and Development;

"(d) The reviews mentioned in subparagraph (b) together with the proposals referred to in subparagraph (c) will be monitored by IACSD in order to ensure a coherent and comprehensive response from the system around thematic clusters as defined by the Commission for Sustainable Development. In those instances where these reviews by organizations show either unnecessary duplication of effort or opportunities for cooperation, consultations will be held to resolve differences and promote joint programming.

"6. The Commission will continue to be apprised of measures undertaken by the ACC to ensure that sustainable development principles are incorporated into programmes and processes within the United Nations system and the progress achieved in the incorporation of recommendations of UNCED in the activities of the United Nations system organizations.

"7. ACC notes with concern the slow progress achieved thus far in initiating the implementation of Agenda 21. The commitments undertaken at Rio, have not been followed by commensurate actions for their realization. In this regard, the lack of adequate financing is among the principal constraints in all countries. Renewed political will and concerted action is needed to overcome this constraint.

"8. The United Nations system has been called upon to assist countries in fulfilling the objectives of Agenda 21. As stated earlier, ACC has initiated a number of steps to mobilize the energies and experience of the system for a coherent and coordinated response to this vast and complex challenge. Every effort is being made to enhance the efficiency of resource use through more effective coordination at the country, regional and global levels and utilization of possibilities for cooperation to achieve synergy. Nevertheless, the imperative need to provide additional funding to meet the new mandates stemming from Agenda 21 must be recognized. ACC notes with concern that despite the commitments undertaken at Rio, funding for mandated programmes has not been forthcoming. In particular, the replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), has fallen short of expectations.

"9. It is essential that the replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Global Environment Facility and the financing of the Capacity 21 Initiative and the UNEP Environment Fund be at an adequate level. ACC further notes the great need for financing of activities at the country and local levels which remain unmet. This gap needs to be bridged urgently if the sustainable development objectives of UNCED are to be realized.

"10. A number of intergovernmental processes such as the global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing States, the intergovernmental negotiating committee on a convention on desertification and the intergovernmental negotiations on chemical safety have been or are being initiated in pursuit of the decisions of UNCED. The organizations of the system are required to contribute substantively to these processes. The budgetary resources of the agencies and organizations of the system are not adequate for these new activities. Clearly, action is needed in the appropriate governing bodies of the system and by the international community to meet these additional resource requirements.

"11. In conclusion, ACC wishes to renew its commitment to meet the challenge of promoting sustainable development. It recognized the critical role of the United Nations system as the global framework for realizing the objectives of Agenda 21. ACC underlines, once again, the importance of ensuring a coherent, well-coordinated and adequate response to this challenge by the United Nations system. It reiterates its determination to undertake all necessary steps towards this objective. The full support of Governments will be critical to the success of this endeavour. ACC looks forward to such support."

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Critical elements of sustainability (chaps. 2-5)

15. The programme areas included in this cluster constitute the broad policy framework for the transition to sustainability. Some of the programme areas included here cover activities that form a part of established international processes dealing with issues of trade, debt, investment, development assistance, monitoring and assessment, economic trends etc. This review focuses attention on specific elements that are related to the theme of sustainable development.

16. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has developed an extensive work programme to cover issues relating to the interlinkages between trade and environment. The work programme concentrates on four areas: research to contribute to the clarification of the interlinkages between trade and environment for the promotion of sustainable development; consensus-building; collection, analysis and dissemination of information on environmental measures which may have a bearing on trade; and technical assistance.

17. Work has been completed on a pilot version of a computerized information system (GREENTRADE) that allows encoding and retrieval of information on environmental product concerns and measures with a view to analysing linkages between trade and development. GREENTRADE consists of an operational software, able to execute these three basic functions, supported by a preliminary database covering selected countries, product measures and environmental issues. Work is under way in UNCTAD on several thematic studies and country case studies dealing with relevant linkages between technology, trade and environment.

18. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/211, the UNCTAD secretariat is adjusting its Trade Control Measures database to collect, analyse and disseminate information on environmental regulations and measures which may have an impact on trade, especially that of the developing countries, so as to contribute to the international transparency of national environmental regulations.

19. As regards natural resources, work has been completed in UNCTAD on four studies dealing with resource development, resource management and market conditions. In addition, a round-table meeting on the links between market conditions and the intensity of resource use, in particular environmental effects, was held. Work is under way on case-studies on the different impacts on the environment of producing a specific commodity under different governmental policies and socio-economic conditions. In addition, further case-studies being conducted on the contribution of the minerals sector to economic development include parts dealing with the environmental implications of mineral production activities in specific developing countries.

20. Within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) a number of activities are currently considered or under way in line with the provisions of chapter 2 of Agenda 21 related to GATT's mandate. Attention is given to such objectives as promotion of sustainable development through trade liberalization and making trade and environment policies mutually supportive. The Committee on Trade and Development and the Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade have been meeting during 1993 on specific Conference follow-up matters that were referred to them by the GATT Contracting Parties. In November 1993, the Council of Representatives will hold a meeting in order to review and, if necessary supplement, the Organization's work in this area.

21. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) continues to advise member countries on macroeconomic policies which, among other things, encourage them to create market-based pricing and open exchange and trade systems. In addition, the Fund has allocated staff resources to liaise with other organizations with environmental competence and responsibilities. The aim is to contribute to an understanding of the impact of macroeconomic policy instruments on the environment. IMF staff have prepared briefing notes on environmental concerns in most Fund member countries for use by staff as background information for their discussions with member countries. These briefing notes were based, inter alia, on the reports of national authorities prepared for the Conference.

22. IMF, in its efforts to pay special attention to the social aspects of adjustment and poverty issues, has conducted in-house seminars on poverty, provided technical assistance to member countries for the design and implementation of cost-effective social safety nets and helped catalyse external financial assistance for such measures. Discussions of poverty and social safety nets between Fund missions and country authorities are now common, and these issues are discussed in staff reports in greater detail than before.

23. Agenda 21 contains various proposals for domestic policy measures that have financial implications. In addition, Agenda 21 propbses new mechanisms for external financing of projects for developing countries. The Fund intends to pay increasing attention to these financing sources in their discussions with national authorities in order to ensure their consistency within the

macro-policy framework that is aimed at promoting balanced and sustainable growth.

24. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has a specific mandate in the area of rural poverty alleviation. IFAD provides concessional financing for agricultural and rural development projects that have an explicit target group consisting of small farmers, artisanal fishermen, nomadic pastoralists, indigenous peoples, landless labourers and sharecroppers, and the poor rural women who make up these groups. The Fund's orientation and scope of activities are directly relevant to the provisions of Agenda 21, particularly chapter 3, "Combating poverty".

25. IFAD has embarked on the preliminary development and testing phase (PDTP) of Natural Resource Management for Rural Poverty Alleviation. The phase is an accelerated institutional learning process designed to assist the Fund in incorporating environmental considerations into its lending operations and in translating Agenda 21 into action. The two-year (March 1992-March 1994) phase consists of four mutually reinforcing components: pro-active environmental assessments to assist the design of specific IFAD projects; thematic natural resource management studies that address recurrent issues in IFAD projects in particular agro-ecosystems and will guide IFAD's portfolio development; environment-related pre-investment activities that build the foundation for environmentally sustainable project implementation; and development of operational guidelines for sustainable agriculture to provide guidance for the design and implementation of IFAD poverty alleviation projects in line with Agenda 21.

26. In response to the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is expanding its programme in the field of population and environment. The implementation of a new project, entitled Population pressures, poverty, and environmentally endangered areas has commenced. Taking as its starting point the emphasis on understanding the interaction between population, environmental degradation and poverty in both Agenda 21 and UNFPA's mandate, the project seeks to identify areas of the world where poverty and environmental degradation have reached critical proportions and where population pressures are important contributing factors; to carry out in these areas further detailed research into the links between population factors, poverty, and environmental degradation; and to use the results of the research to assist in the formulation of remedial policies. The results should especially have medium- and long-term preventive effects by being incorporated into national population policies and national and international environmental and developmental planning.

27. Beginning in 1993, UNFPA is funding a project of great potential significance to the South Pacific region. Being implemented by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, which is a regional institution supported by 22 island States, the project will extend over four years and includes the following objectives: to promote awareness of the links between population growth and environmental degradation among policy makers and planners and also at the community level; to develop the capacity of the Pacific island countries to incorporate population concerns into their environmental policies, programmes and activities in order to achieve sustainable development; by the end of the project cycle, substantially to improve the capacities of

governmental departments and units of the Pacific islands States concerned with environmental management to incorporate population dimensions by enhancing their capabilities to utilize demographic as well as socio-economic data in the formulation, planning, and implementation of environmental programmes.

28. Support has also been extended to a project which is being implemented by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a view to examining the relationship between demographic characteristics, resource endowments, and level of technological capabilities. The project seeks to develop an integrated analytical framework to help guide analysis of the population/environment/development linkages.

29. Support may also be given to four other projects which are under consideration at present. They deal with population growth, agricultural land transformation, and environmental change; the relationship between migration and environmental degradation; population, consumption, and the environment; and the development of a community-based data-gathering system on population growth and local ecosystems. These projects involve extensive collaboration between groups of researchers in the developed and developing countries and cover numerous localities in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

30. As part of the United Nations Programme on Global Development Issues and Policies, the United Nations Global Input-Output Model (GIOM) of the world economy is being upgraded to facilitate system-wide analyses of alternative growth paths of the world economy beyond the year 2000 and of alternative policies that affect the process and results of structural change. Particular attention will be paid to the relationships between patterns of consumption, resource use and choice of technologies, and the impact of less resource-intensive technologies on economic development. In 1994 a publication on technology diffusion in energy-intensive sectors in the developing countries and its implications for air emissions will be prepared.

31. The United Nations will continue to assess and monitor several important issues related to sustainable development - in particular, providing adequate financial resources to developing countries and encouraging economic policies conducive to sustainable development; national and international policies for poverty eradication; and the relevant issues with regard to "social dimension" addressed in section I of Agenda 21.

32. The Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat is in the process of expanding the PRED Bank, its database for population and development research. The database currently contains population data and data on labour force and the economic and educational sectors at the national level, and it will include selected environmental and natural resource variables.

33. The Division has started a systematic inventory and analysis of governmental views on linkages between population and environment, including those expressed during the current preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development. With financial support from UNFPA, the Division has also launched a project designed to develop a better understanding of the relationships between population and the environment. The project is to set a research agenda for the investigation of the relationships between population and the environment.

B. Financial resources and mechanisms (chap. 33)

34. A detailed report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Initial financial commitments, financial flows and arrangements to give effect to the decisions of the Conference from all available funding sources and mechanisms" (E/CN.17/1993/11) is brought to the attention of the Commission.

C. Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building (chaps. 16, 34-37)

35. The programme areas included in this cluster are crucial for building up a long-term capacity to manage the transition to sustainable development. Together they constitute the means to raise knowledge and awareness through education and training, to increase our understanding of developmental and environmental processes and the links between them through scientific research, and the application of knowledge to ensure sustainable development through technology development, transfer and cooperation. The way in which the United Nations system is assisting in the tasks related to technology transfer and capacity-building is dealt with in a separate report entitled "Progress achieved in facilitating and promoting transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building" (E/CN.17/1993/10).

36. In line with the Agenda 21 recommendation that the joint UNESCO/UNEP International Environmental Education Programme (IEEP) should take the lead within the United Nations system in reorienting education to sustainable development, the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will submit to the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-seventh session (November 1993) a proposal to launch in 1994-1995 a major new initiative which would step up UNESCO's contribution to the IEEP. It would indeed enhance cooperation between UNESCO, UNEP and UNFPA to approach environment and population education and information in a more holistic and synergetic way.

37. In general, the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development provides UNESCO with a particular opportunity to enhance further interdisciplinary work on environment and development as recommended throughout Agenda 21, drawing on one of the greatest comparative advantages of the Organization - namely, the advantage of being able to place its activities at the interface of education and science, including social science, culture and communication.

38. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is giving special attention to environmental education for increasing the awareness of children and women about alternative livelihood opportunities and encouraging their active participation in the pursuit of innovative approaches to meeting today's basic needs and to preserving the planet for future generations and hence becoming environmentally and socially responsible citizens.

39. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) programme in support of Agenda 21 includes launching a major capacity-building programme (Capacity 21) and obtaining preliminary responses from all interested parties; reviewing the

fifth cycle country programmes and preparing for a more detailed review to be carried out during the cycle so that the programmes will more fully support a sustainable development strategy; formulating a cooperative programme with the private sector to promote technology-sharing and the development of environmentally benign technologies; and identifying new initiatives to protect the intellectual property rights of indigenous groups and promote their role in the development of ecologically sound techniques.

40. In UNCTAD the issue of environmentally sound technologies has been included in the work programme of the TDB Ad Hoc Working Group on the Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer. A workshop will be held on the subject in the autumn of 1993. National capacity-building is being actively supported by UNCTAD's technical cooperation programmes. In particular, work is nearly completed on the development of a training course for officials and negotiators of developing countries and countries in transition on the theme of the reconciliation of trade and environment policies. In addition, work is under way on a training package on developmental aspects of global environmental deliberations.

41. Within UNESCO all relevant programme sectors, intergovernmental bodies and international programmes have by now finalized their in-depth analysis of the implications of the Conference results for their respective activities. Those activities have been reoriented to be in line with Agenda 21 and other Conference results. The respective revised strategies and action plans have been endorsed, whenever appropriate, by the intergovernmental bodies concerned - e.g., the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the International Coordinating Council of Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, as well as by the appropriate expert advisory bodies for other relevant programmes.

42. The following cross-cutting areas have been identified as of highest priority for UNESCO: training and capacity-building, particularly in developing countries; education of the public and information for decision makers; science for sustainable development. As regards topical areas, without excluding other areas, priority will be given to scientific programmes related to oceans (through IOC), biological diversity and fresh-water resources.

43. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) intends to undertake the following activities:

(a) Dissemination of information which explains intellectual property concepts and practices as they relate to the proprietary and non-proprietary aspects of technology, including environmentally sound technology;

(b) Training courses and seminars dealing with the use, sale, licensing, remuneration and other aspects of the transfer of technology, whether protected or not as intellectual property, including environmentally sound technology;

(c) Preparation of technology "profiles" of selected fields of environmentally sound technology. Each profile will consist of technical information which gives an account of the evolution of the technological field in question, the different solutions to the technological problems and a

description of the state of the art in that field. Such information will be drawn from the technical information contained in patent documents, of which some 30 million exist today.

44. In the last year the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has undertaken a number of new initiatives which support sustainable development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building. These include the following:

(a) IFC's Environment Unit has increased its capacity to promote and identify private-sector environmental projects and assist project sponsors to develop bankable projects eligible for IFC financing (for example, provision of water supply and water treatment, waste management and waste treatment services, eco-tourism). As a result of this effort, a number of environmental projects are currently being processed by IFC;

(b) IFC has devoted considerable resources during the past year to identifying and developing private-sector projects for funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol. IFC has also provided significant input into the design of the operational phase of GEF on ways to increase the participation of the private sector and to improve the efficiency of administrative procedures to accommodate private-sector needs, such as bundling of medium- and small-scale projects;

(c) IFC has initiated a major effort to develop environmental management guidelines, working tools, and training materials to help IFC project sponsors improve their environmental management capabilities;

(d) IFC is engaged in preliminary discussions with the Business Council for Sustainable Development, UNEP and UNDP on the possibility of establishing a project development facility to help accelerate the transfer of environmentally sound technology.

45. The support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to capacity-building concentrates on three fundamental aspects of sustainable development: first, in the form of enhanced capacities to incorporate environmental considerations into industrial policies and strategies; secondly, in terms of improved capacities to analyse and exercise choices among technological options; and thirdly, in terms of enhanced capacities to apply the technological choices. The Organization has identified two major thrust areas: cleaner production techniques and technologies; and energy efficiency and conservation measures. Both thrust areas guide UNIDO field activities at the sectoral and subsectoral levels. They are interrelated and reflect the new concept of cleaner production, which focuses on optimal products and processes for pollution prevention and resource conservation.

46. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) promotes research and technical cooperation activities, backed up by its own laboratories, which will support many projects directly related to Agenda 21.

D. Decision-making structures (chaps. 8, 38-40)

47. The programme areas included in this cluster involve improvement in broadly three areas of action - decision-making structures, legal systems, and data and information. With regard to decision-making structures, the crucial requirement is the improvement of processes to secure better coordination and linkage between environmental and developmental actions and between sectors. The steps taken at the international level to provide for inter-agency coordination have been described in paragraphs 4-6 above. In addition, within agencies, steps have been taken to reorient organizational structures towards the objectives of Agenda 21. These take the form of the preparation of papers to intern staff of the implications of Agenda 21 for the agency, the creation of new structures specifically for sustainable development in the organization, the formation of relevant advisory groups, participation in coordination meetings etc. In terms of supporting the formation of appropriate structures at the national level, some initiatives have also been launched.

48. The United Nation Secretariat has launched a number of activities in the area of environmental management planning and assistance to Governments in formulating environmental action plans like Agenda 21. This has involved integrating environmental strategies with overall development plans and programmes of national capacity-building, paying particular attention to the conservation of natural habitats, land degradation and desertification, and urban and industrial pollution.

49. Its programme of development advisory services has been revised to include environmental policy and management guidelines, the use of remote sensing for environmental monitoring, and advanced technology assessment systems for the environment. Particular emphasis is being given to the preparation of environmental management guidelines for the mining, energy, public administration and national planning sectors. Other priorities include human resources development for environmental management, including environmental impact assessment for personnel from developing countries and to technical assistance for energy conservation and efficiency.

50. The UNDP programme in support of Agenda 21 includes following up on the conclusions in national reports to the Conference, many of which were prepared with UNDP support; identifying support that countries will require to prepare action plans for the implementation of Agenda 21; consulting with non-governmental organizations in developing countries about their capacity-building needs and planning initiatives to strengthen the roles played by institutions of civil society in promoting sustainable development and implementing and monitoring Agenda 21; co-sponsoring the regional meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria, focusing on national strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, and supporting a number of national conferences and seminars convened to formulate similar national agendas through a participatory process; and moving ahead on the Sustainable Development Network (SDN), a programme to facilitate access by developing countries to information on key issues of sustainable development.

51. A number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are actively assisting developing countries and economies in transition in the task

of providing an effective legal and regulatory framework for sustainable development, as outlined in section 8 (B) of Agenda 21.

52. Over the past year, the World Bank has provided technical assistance in the field of environmental law and institutions to a total of 30 developing countries and economies in transition. Environmental law advisory services - through professional staff and consultants working in close cooperation with local legal experts - are thus provided in the context of loan agreements, which routinely require due regard to be paid to environmental and ecological factors or specify particular regulatory action to be taken in areas such as pollution control or forest management. Assistance was also provided for the strengthening of national legal and administrative institutions as part of free-standing environmental projects, within the framework of national environmental action plans, or, more recently, in the context of grant agreements funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

53. In cooperation with other international and national institutions, the Legal Department of the World Bank has provided support and expert staff for training programmes in environmental law and administration for lawyers from developing countries. At the initiative of the World Bank, a workshop on technical assistance for environmental law was held in Washington, D.C., in March 1993, between United Nations bodies and agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in this specialized field, including UNEP, UNDP, FAO, WHO, Inter-American Development Bank and IUCN. A pertinent example of inter-agency cooperation now being developed is the Joint Project in Environmental Law and Institutions for Governments of African Countries, expected to be financed jointly by the Government of the Netherlands and the UNEP Environment Fund and executed jointly by UNEP and UNDP in cooperation with IUCN, with the World Bank participating in the Steering Committee.

54. The SNA Handbook on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting is expected to be published shortly as a sales publication of the United Nations. The Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat has recently carried out short-term missions, through the United Nations regular programme for technical support, to China, Indonesia and Thailand, with a view to assisting the Governments in the implementation of integrated accounting. The missions may evolve into country projects, similar to case-studies already carried out in Mexico and Papua New Guinea. It is intended to conduct further country projects with the possible support of UNEP and other international organizations.

55. At the regional level, the Statistical Office presented the new integrated accounting methodologies at the Organization of American States (OAS) Seminar on Natural Resource and Environmental Accounts for Development Policy (Washington, D.C., 13-14 April 1993). Jointly with UNDP the Office organized the Workshop on Environmental and Natural Resource Accounting for Asian and Pacific countries (Beijing, 20-22 April 1993). Further regional seminars are planned for Africa and countries in transition, in cooperation with UNDP and UNEP.

56. Under the aegis of the Statistical Commission, the Statistical Office was recently requested to establish a Task Force on Environment Statistics. The Task Force will, inter alia, assess the need for improved coordination in the development of environmental indicators and indicators of sustainable

development. The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Advancement of Environment Statistics, to which the Statistical Office provides secretariat services, will continue to guide the international work on environmental statistics and indicators. The use of integrated accounts in developing a National Action Plan for Sustainable Development for Papua New Guinea is currently being explored as part of an inter-agency effort of assisting the country in implementing Agenda 21 at the national level. This study could become a model for similar activities in other countries.

57. At UNICEF a fund of $2.5 million for the biennium 1994-1995 has been approved to support planning, project preparations and specific actions so that environmental concerns and sustainable development approaches are integrated into UNICEF-assisted country programmes. More than half of the amount will be spent in the field so that UNICEF country offices can intensify their efforts to:

(a) Assist Governments in ensuring that national programmes of action contain primary environmental care (PEC) elements;

(b) Provide small seed funds to non-governmental organizations and community organizations to initiate PEC activities;

(c) Encourage social mobilization through various mechanisms, so that children and their parents become effective focal points for sensitization of communities to environmental issues;

(d) Support advocacy activities to incorporate children's and women's concerns into relevant policies and strategies at the local, national, regional and international levels.

E. Roles of major groups (chaps. 23-32)

58. In the wake of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the United Nations Secretariat has been involved in several follow-up activities involving major groups, particularly women. An Interregional Workshop on the Role of Women in Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development was held in China in September 1992. It prepared a series of prototype sustainable development programmes and projects. A number of non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting, indicative of the closer contacts that have been established with the non-governmental organization community.

59. At its thirty-seventh session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in its resolution entitled "Women, environment and development", requested the Secretary-General to include information on the role of women in environment and sustainable development in the report on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development which is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/167. The report will illustrate structural linkages that exist between gender relations and sustainable development. It will outline measures to develop and include gender analysis as a fundamental step in the monitoring of Agenda 21 and in the development of policies and programmes.

60. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna has, in the context of Agenda 21, given more attention to the social dimensions of the concept of sustainable development, focusing on the role of social policy and social institutions in the reorientation of unsustainable lifestyles and production patterns.

61. During the 1993 session of UNICEF's Executive Board, a detailed discussion took place on the report "Children, environment and sustainable development: UNICEF response to Agenda 21" (E/ICEF/1993/L.2). In decision 1993/14, the Executive Board called upon the Executive Director to incorporate the primary environmental care (PEC) perspective as an integral part of UNICEF-assisted programmes for meeting basic needs on a sustainable basis and for protection and optimal utilization of natural resources in and around the community, including through the empowerment of families, especially children and women.

62. UNICEF is enhancing its partnership with non-governmental organizations, research institutions and community groups so as to initiate innovative activities that take into account the concerns of children and women at the household and community levels, to support advocacy campaigns for building the awareness of decision makers as well as the public-at-large, and to mobilize people's participation and initiatives for multiplication of such activities in large numbers.

63. The United Nations Secretariat completed a study on transnational corporations and climate change and disseminated criteria for sustainable development management. The Department also prepared a report on the lessons learned in industrial environmental protection and on the requirements for disclosure of information on environmental hazards. A status report on the work being carried out by the United Nations system on hazardous technologies and safer alternatives was produced. A survey of the environmental management priorities of 200 of the world's largest transnational corporations was completed, to make available information and provide a model framework for environmentally sound management.

64. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has prepared a special working document entitled "ILO Agenda 21" which highlights Agenda 21 priority areas in which the ILO has extensive experience and identifies ILO means of action to support activities in those areas. The document focuses on ILO activities related to the working environment, employment and development, training, and support to the ILO's tripartite constituents. It also emphasizes relevant activities within the ILO's programmes concerning women, indigenous and tribal peoples, labour-intensive infrastructure development, and the rural and urban informal sectors.

F. Health, human settlements and fresh water (chaps. 6, 7, 18 and 21)

65. The World Health Assembly in 1992 requested the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) to formulate a new Global Strategy for Environment and Health. The Strategy establishes a unifying framework for WHO action to implement the health and environmental activities of various chapters of Agenda 21, including chapter 6, on protecting and promoting human health;

chapter 7, on promoting sustainable human settlements; chapter 18, on fresh water; and chapter 19, on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals. The Strategy establishes organization-wide objectives and identifies strategic actions to achieve those objectives through an enhanced programme for the promotion of chemical safety, broader action and collaboration throughout WHO on matters related to health and the environment, and stronger partnership with other international and non-governmental organizations.

66. In order to receive advice on organizational, institutional and financial issues related to the Strategy, the Director-General established a Council on the Implementation of the Earth Summit's Action Programme for Health and Environment. The Council is composed of 10 senior officials from member States in charge of health, environment and development and decision-making, and will meet once a year.

67. Following the recommendations of the first meeting of the Council, held in January 1993, WHO will finance and implement some six country case-studies within the next six months to incorporate health and environmental considerations into national plans for sustainable development, to be prepared following the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

68. In addition, WHO has developed guideline manuals for ministries of health and other relevant ministries with regard to the incorporation of priority health issues, including preventive and other measures least detrimental to health in the development of policies and programmes for food and agriculture, water, energy, and urban and rural human settlements. Furthermore, in order to guide countries, WHO has prepared a document entitled "Health, environment and development: approaches to drafting country-level strategies for human well-being under Agenda 21".

69. The Executive Board of UNICEF called for more explicit inclusion of the protection and optimal use of natural resources in such programmes as:

(a) Provision of clean water, adequate sanitation and health education, including personal and household hygiene;

(b) Ensuring household food security and promoting knowledge of food preparation techniques to reduce malnutrition;

(c) Delivery of primary health care, including the Bamako Initiative, through community participation and control;

(d) Enhancing basic life skills, as part of "education for life", through formal, non-formal and "third channel" mechanisms;

(e) Promotion of specific activities concerning women and development;

(f) Provision of integrated basic services in rural and urban areas.

Although it is not possible to disaggregate strictly the budgetary allocation, these environment-related activities constitute at least $100 million, or 12 per cent of total UNICEF programme expenditure. If immunization and other

health-related expenditures designed to improve the immediate environment of children and women are included, the total amount is at least one half of the UNICEF programme expenditure.

70. Plans are under way in UNICEF for developing indicators and methods for systematic analyses of environmental causes and consequences and their implications for the well-being of children and women. Appropriate guidelines will subsequently be provided for use by UNICEF country offices as well as UNICEF partners at different stages in the country programming process - i.e., during situation analyses, strategy formulation, programme development and programme evaluation. They are also expected to be useful in promoting the inclusion of the PEC perspective in the national programmes of action, whenever they are reviewed or, in some cases, newly developed.

71. In its activities aimed at enabling the poor to strive for sustainable livelihood opportunities, UNICEF is giving priority to those whose livelihoods have been seriously affected by desertification, degradation of mountain ecosystems, reckless exploitation of tropical forests, or urban squalor.

72. UNCHS (Habitat) is currently undertaking various activities in the implementation of recommendations contained in chapter 7 and other related chapters of Agenda 21, such as 9, 17, 21 and 28. Within its comprehensive structure, the 1994-1995 UNCHS work programme, recently adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements, incorporates specific outputs and activities which include implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; a regional seminar on strategic options for public transport improvements in large cities of developing countries; and production of a comprehensive technical publication to provide specific guidelines on safety measures, pre-disaster planning techniques, post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation planning for disaster-prone areas.

73. In addition, priority attention continues to be given to a number of existing global programmes related to Agenda 21 already being undertaken by UNCHS. Among such programmes, which are typically undertaken in collaboration with other partner-agencies, are the Urban Management Programme (in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank), the Sustainable Cities Programme, and the City Data Programme. UNCHS has also established a settlement, infrastructure and environment programme aimed at providing technical support for an integrated approach to environmental infrastructure - water supply, sanitation, drainage and waste management. Other activities of UNCHS include development of a sustainable and environmentally sound approach to the construction industry through the UNIDO/UNCHS Global Consultation on the Construction Industry (Tunis, May 1993) and the organization of an expert group meeting on urban areas, environment and energy (Lund, Sweden).

74. The United Nations Secretariat is carrying out technical assistance projects in the area of protection of fresh-water resources through integrated water management systems, assessment and monitoring of fresh-water resources, linking water resources activities with initiatives on desertification. Increasing emphasis is being given to assisting Governments in building their capacity to manage their water resources in an integrated manner, and to the formulation of master plans based on river-basin systems.

75. Activities related to the implementation of Agenda 21 recommendations in the area of fresh-water resources are currently under way in UNEP, UNDP, United Nations University (UNU), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), UNDRO, INSTRAW, FAO, UNESCO, World Bank, WMO and IAEA. The ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources provides the forum for cooperation and inter-agency coordination of activities in the context of Agenda 21. The organizations that are members of the Group are continuing their joint efforts through two task forces, one on information management and one on water resources and urban development.

76. The task force on information management in the field of water resources, under the leadership of WMO, is studying the possibility of establishing an integrated network for the monitoring and assessment of water resources. The second task force, under the chairmanship of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), is entrusted with the task of recommending options for inter-agency collaboration in implementing follow-up activities on urban water issues stemming from Agenda 21. Its main objective will be to identify policy orientations, objectives, target groups, scope and coverage of programmes and activities and their relation to the issues emerging from Agenda 21.

77. FAO, jointly with WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank, convened an expert consultation on integrated rural water management (Rome, 15-19 March 1993). The objectives of the consultation were to develop strategies to promote integrated rural water resources planning and development; identify priority areas for technical assistance to developing countries; and prepare guidelines for integrated rural water resources management.

78. UNDP is supporting the improvement of the urban environment through the Local Initiative Facility for the Urban Environment (LIFE).

G. Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity (chaps. 10-15)

79. The programme areas covered in this cluster cover a very broad range of activities. Many of the activities are designed for implementation by national Governments, and the primary task of the United Nations system is to support such national endeavours. However, in one area - desertification - the follow-up involves the establishment of a negotiating process.

80. In accordance with the recommendations of Agenda 21, the General Assembly launched the preparatory process of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. The organizational session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of such a convention met in New York from 26 to 29 January 1993. The Secretariat has organized two meetings of the panel of experts envisaged in General Assembly resolution 47/188 for the preparation of the first substantive session of the Committee (Nairobi, 23 May-3 June 1993). Three inter-agency meetings have been organized in order to ensure adequate coordination and participation of concerned agencies and programmes. The Secretariat has also taken the initial steps for the organization of a non-governmental organization steering committee meeting as a

way of promoting the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the process.

81. UNEP will work closely with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and its secretariat. UNEP databases, assessments and information on a national desertification strategy and its advisory service in international law will be made available for the negotiators' use. It is expected that UNEP's considerable experience on these issues, related to the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, will enable UNEP to play an important role in supporting the negotiations and the structures to be established by the convention.

82. FAO is providing technical support for the preparation of a convention to combat desertification through the provision of inputs to the secretariat, the technical panel and the first session of the Committee. Legal expertise will also be provided by FAO on a stand-by basis, throughout the preparatory process. FAO has produced a document which takes stock of its experience in combating desertification and has published a strategy for dryland development.

83. IFAD is supporting the International Negotiating Committee and its secretariat through the provision of specific inputs on the following topics for which it has significant expertise: socio-economic factors in desertification processes; community-driven approaches to natural resource management; and the development of alternative livelihood strategies in desertification-prone areas. In this regard, the experience gained with IFAD's Special Programme for Sub-Saharan Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification will be particularly relevant.

84. The United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) has supported national and subregional meetings focusing on strategies to follow up Agenda 21, is developing a programme on drought preparedness and mitigation emphasizing capacity-building at the local and subnational levels, and is assisting member States covered under its mandate in the negotiations process for an international convention on desertification.

85. WFP is specifically mentioned in section E, chapter 12 of Agenda 21: developing comprehensive drought preparedness and drought-relief schemes for drought-prone areas. Increased attention to the systematic application of WFP assistance to support disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and rehabilitation measures, especially in Africa, was endorsed by the governing body of WFP, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, at its meeting in November 1992. Donors were urged to provide additional resources to WFP for that purpose. The main thrusts of the approach are:

(a) Re-examining WFP-assisted development projects to see how they could better meet disaster mitigation and rehabilitation objectives;

(b) Using some WFP-provided relief assistance for disaster mitigation or rehabilitation as well as relief;

(c) Linking up with other funding agencies that have specific programmes of assistance for Africa (e.g., IFAD, UNDP, and the World Bank) to increase the impact of WFP assistance.

86. A major focus will be support to disaster-mitigation and rehabilitation programmes through labour-intensive works that simultaneously provide immediate employment and income, alleviating poverty and strengthening self-help capacity; and enable the construction and improvement of the infrastructure needed, particularly to increase agricultural production, stimulate rural development and strengthen protective measures against drought and other disasters.

87. As proposed by the Den Bosch Conference on Agriculture and the Environment, the FAO Conference decided to launch an International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (ICPF/SARD). This programme framework integrates the major Conference recommendations for action at the international level contained in chapter 14 (sustainable agriculture and rural development), with those of chapters 11 and 17 (forestry and fisheries) and with relevant programmes of chapters 10, 12 and 13 and those of the Action Plan of the FAO/WHO International Conference on Nutrition, held in December 1992. The ICPF/SARD includes a series of special action programmes which have been streamlined to combine field projects with regular programme activities of FAO in the following areas:

(a) Policy advice and planning assistance: Policy assistance for food security and sustainable agriculture and rural development; Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP); and responsible and sustainable fisheries.

(b) Improvement of people's welfare: Nutrition and food quality; people's participation/poverty alleviation; sustainable development of rural households.

(c) Sustainable management of the natural resources base: land-use planning, conservation and rehabilitation; management of water resources; conservation, development and use of plant genetic resources; and global programme for animal genetic resources.

(d) Sound use of agricultural inputs: integrated plant nutrition systems; and integrated pest management.

88. A number of countries have requested FAO's assistance in sector policy reviews and in launching projects in line with Agenda 21 and the special action programmes noted above. A major strategy document to guide policies and action on sustainable agriculture and rural development is being finalized. Similar strategy documents will be produced on responsible fisheries and sustainable forestry.

89. The FAO Committee on Forestry reviewed the proposal for the establishment of a consultative group for the Tropical Forestry Action Plan with the participation of Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. It analysed the implications of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for FAO's forestry programmes and made proposals on how to enhance support to sustainable forestry development, in particular through the Action Plan and the use of FAO's regional commissions and programmes.

90. The FAO Committee on World Food Security considered a document on improving food security through sustainable productivity increases in fragile areas of developing countries and agreed on priorities for FAO's work programme on food

security and sustainability. The Committees on Agriculture and on Commodity Problems are also addressing the relevant aspects of Conference follow-up.

91. The FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, in discussing the follow-up, adopted a resolution in order to revise the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, to ensure its consistency, synergy and complementarity with the Convention on Biological Diversity, addressing in particular the issue of access to ex situ collections and the realization of farmers' rights.

92. FAO will be leading the preparatory process to hold an International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in 1995, which will prepare the first state of the world's plant genetic resources and a plan of action to implement the Agenda 21 action on plant genetic resources and make the global system on plant genetic resources fully operational. The global programme on animal genetic resources was broadened and strengthened. Work on in situ conservation of crop, animal, forest and fisheries genetic resources is being strengthened, including networking. A code of conduct for the collection and transfer of germplasm was approved, and one for plant biotechnology is under preparation.

93. IFAD has undertaken an initial review of the implications of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for its lending operations. The review, endorsed by IFAD's Executive Board at its forty-seventh session, in December 1992, noted the consistency of the Fund's operations with the provisions of Agenda 21 in the areas of sustainable agriculture and rural development and managing fragile ecosystems such as mountains and desert-prone areas. The document noted that a process of qualitative change, already initiated with IFAD, to place increasing emphasis on sustainability issues in IFAD project design and implementation would further enhance this consistency.

94. The UNDP programme in support of Agenda 21 includes intensifying efforts to develop a strategy for sustainable agriculture, supporting a global sustainable agriculture network and launching a national capacity-building initiative for managing national forests.

95. Through the FAO/IAEA Joint Division, nuclear techniques are used to overcome problems in the following areas: soil fertility, irrigation and crop production; plant breeding and genetics; animal production and health; insect and pest control, through the sterile-insect technique which reduces the use of insecticides and avoids ecological damage; agrochemicals and residues.

96. UNEP will give high priority to assisting Governments in achieving early entry into force and effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to establishing the interim secretariat and furthering its work programme. As of 24 May 1993, 164 countries had signed the Convention and 14 had ratified it.

97. UNEP, upon request, will assist in the efforts of Governments and organs and organizations of the United Nations system on the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests. Furthermore, UNEP is ready to take part in the coordination of global and regional forest assessments and in the development and dissemination of forest data.

H. Atmosphere, oceans and all kinds of seas (chaps. 9, 17)

98. Following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a Framework Convention on Climate Change held its sixth session (Geneva, 7-10 December 1992). The Committee set up two working groups, one to deal with matters of the Convention relating to commitments, and the second to handle matters relating to arrangements for the financial mechanism and for technical and financial support to developing country Parties, and procedural, institutional and legal matters.

99. Working Group II started its work at the seventh session of the Committee (New York, 15-20 March 1993). Both working groups will be convened during the eighth session (scheduled in Geneva, 16-27 August 1993). Provisions are being made for three additional sessions of the Committee during 1994 and 1995.

100. As of 24 May 1993, 161 countries had signed the Convention, and 20 had ratified it. It can thus be expected that, at the present rate, the fiftieth ratification will be received by early 1994. The first session of the Conference of the Parties is therefore planned for early 1995. The Government of Germany has offered to host the session.

101. UNEP will work closely with Governments and United Nations agencies in supporting the implementation of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol and of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular through the coordination of climate-related country studies and through encouraging education and awareness-raising programmes. UNEP will also support and participate in research, monitoring, observing and assessment programmes, specifically the World Climate Programme, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Global Climate Observing System.

102. In order to have a coordinated approach as follow-up to the agreements of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, WMO is addressing two major issues: how to strengthen the capacity and capability of the Organization as a whole - i.e., the WMO Secretariat and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of its member countries; and how to strengthen the coordination of international programmes, in particular those in which WMO collaborates with other United Nations agencies and with non-governmental organizations.

103. The WMO/EC Working Group on follow-up to the Conference, including capacity-building, met from 16 to 28 November 1992 and from 29 March to 1 April 1993. The Working Group reviewed the programme areas of Agenda 21 and the Framework Convention on Climate Change as they relate to WMO programmes, proposed programmes for meeting the capacity-building needs of member countries, and prepared guidelines on the role of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and the role of WMO in providing scientific information and advice for climate and related activities. The recommendations and conclusions of the Working Group will be examined by the forthcoming sessions of the Executive Council, in June 1993.

104. On 16 April 1993, the intergovernmental meeting of the World Climate Programme (WCP), organized jointly by WMO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP and ICSU,

emphasized the importance of the Programme and its associated activities in continuing to make an effective contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the socio-economic development of nations. The meeting recognized that, through the proposed four main thrusts of WCP and its associated activities, future progress and benefits may be achieved. In particular:

(a) Essential services in support of sustainable development will be provided;

(b) Improved predictions of climate and climate change over periods ranging from seasons to centuries will result from advances in climate-related science and technology;

(c) Advances in climate-observing systems will lead to increased knowledge of the global climate, in all its aspects;

(d) Response strategies to reduce the vulnerability of society will be developed through improvements in the assessments of how climate variations and change affect economic and social activities.

105. UNDP is closely cooperating with its three partner agencies (UNEP, UNIDO, World Bank) in programme implementation under the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. UNDP assists developing countries in the planning, preparation and implementation of country programmes, projects and sectoral activities to replace and phase out chlorofluorocarbons, halons and other ozone-depleting substances through on-site and in-country technical training and external study tours, feasibility studies, pre-investment studies, demonstration projects and, on country request, investment projects. UNDP follows a sector-based approach covering aerosols, refrigeration and air-conditioning, mobile air-conditioning, foams, solvents and halons used in fire-extinguishing. Its key feature is a cost-effective technology dissemination and replication strategy.

106. FAO actively contributes to the work of the various IPCC working groups and closely cooperated with WMO in the organization of the Intergovernmental Meeting of the World Climate Change Programme. FAO's activities in this field concentrate on the sound use of energy, in particular biofuels as a substitute for fossil fuels; updating of the population supporting capacity study, based on agro-ecological zoning and climate change models; studies relating to the impact of climate change on crops and irrigated agriculture, including the adaptation of tree species, crops and animals; a survey of the world's low-lying coastal areas and an imaging system to support the management of coastal areas. A technical consultation to examine the negative and positive effects of climate change, including the effects of ozone-layer depletion on crop production, animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries, is scheduled for December 1993.

107. The United Nations technical assistance programme includes activities related to the protection of the atmosphere through programmes for improved energy efficiency and conservation and the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy. In collaboration with UNDP, the Swedish Agency for International Technical and Economic Cooperation, USAID and several other

bilateral agencies, the United Nations Secretariat was instrumental in promoting strategies for implementing power-sector efficiency. The Stockholm Initiative on Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (SEED) played a key role in fostering the case for energy conservation and efficiency in the Conference process. It also established the Solar Energy Group on Environment and Development to prepare a technical report on new and renewable sources of energy.

108. In UNCTAD work is under way on market-based instruments for protection of the atmosphere. It comprises two elements: research on a global system of tradeable carbon emission entitlements (tradeable permits); and research on designing tax-based instruments for financing environmental protection. Case-studies are being undertaken on the implementation of CO_2-offset arrangements. In addition, studies are in progress on new mechanisms for joint implementation of commitments utilizing tradeable carbon emission entitlements; essential design requirements of a global system of tradeable carbon emission entitlements; and model rules and regulations of global CO_2 entitlements market.

109. UNIDO is actively promoting efficiency in energy conversion and end use, particularly in fossil-fuel-dependent developing countries. This includes the intervention of high efficiency combustion technologies, energy-efficient industrial technologies and processes, and the promotion of energy conservation. UNIDO also supports the introduction of sources such as solar, hydrogen and small-scale hydropower from which greenhouse gas emissions are minimal. UNIDO has become the fourth implementing agency of the Montreal Protocol since 1993 and will be carrying out industry-based projects to phase out ozone-depleting substances in substances in developing countries as of 1993.

110. In March 1993, the Council of ICAO amended the standards for the control of aircraft engine emissions by reducing the permitted amounts of nitrogen oxides by 20 per cent. The standards are primarily aimed at reducing the impact of such emissions on local air quality near airports. Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, ICAO has also been intensifying its efforts to address aircraft engine emissions and their possible contribution to environmental problems in the upper atmosphere, such as global warming and depletion of the ozone layer.

111. At its twenty-ninth session, in October 1992, the Assembly of ICAO adopted resolution A29-12 in which it endorses the decision of the Council of ICAO to expand its activities on aircraft engine emissions and those of its Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection and stresses the urgency of the attention that must be given to those activities. ICAO has for many years addressed the problem of aircraft noise and continues to be at the forefront in developing solutions, including the development of standards for noise certification of aircraft and the adoption and review of a world-wide policy in this area.

112. As the only agency in the United Nations system mandated to deal with all aspects of nuclear energy, IAEA has a comprehensive programme covering the safe and environmentally sound development of nuclear power, from uranium mining to radioactive waste management. With other agencies, IAEA assists developing countries by providing analytical tools for energy and electricity planning, incorporating in particular the health and environmental effects of different options, using computer-aided methodologies. As regards climate change, IAEA

supports technical work dealing with energy-related issues and also with the impact of climate change, using radioisotope methods to understand the global carbon cycle.

113. The Governing Council of UNEP at its seventeenth session decided to convene in late 1995 an intergovernmental meeting on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities. Furthermore, UNEP, making full use of the experience gained within its Regional Seas Programme, will support the preparations for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in particular in holding regional technical preparatory meetings.

114. Immediately after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, relevant extracts from Agenda 21 were circulated to IMO's Council, Maritime Safety Committee, Marine Environment Protection Committee and the Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention, 1972. The Marine Environment Protection Committee recognized the importance of quick and coordinated action for follow-up to the Conference and agreed that it should act as the focal point within IMO for review of the implications of Agenda 21, taking into account the need for consideration of Agenda 21 by the other committees of the organization. The Marine Environment Protection Committee's action was endorsed by the IMO Council at its sixty-ninth session, in November 1992.

115. Discussions within the FAO Committee on Fisheries focused on the issues related to straddling and highly migratory stocks (which was the subject of a technical meeting held in September 1992), and priority action on responsible fisheries and work on integrated coastal area management (joint guidelines being prepared with the World Bank and UNEP, and sectoral guidelines being prepared by FAO).

I. Toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes (chaps. 19, 20 and 22)

116. The first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal has invited the Parties to cooperate with each other directly or through the Secretariat in the implementation of activities related to the Basel Convention contained in chapters 20 and 21 of Agenda 21.

117. It decided to carry out as a priority such activities as assisting developing countries in establishing and maintaining inventories of hazardous waste production; increasing public awareness and information on hazardous waste; developing relevant training and education programmes for decision makers in industry and government; supporting national institutions in dealing with hazardous waste; providing assistance in assessing the health and environmental risks resulting from exposure to hazardous wastes; cooperating in the formulation of regional agreements, such as the Bamako Convention; monitoring and making regional assessments of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes; developing guidelines for estimating the costs and benefits of various approaches to the adoption of cleaner production and waste minimization and environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, including the rehabilitation of contaminated sites. The secretariat of the Convention is

also undertaking or planning a number of activities related to the transfer of technology in this area.

118. In relation to the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, Agenda 21 recommended, inter alia, that collaboration on chemical safety between ILO, UNEP and WHO in the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) should be the nucleus for international cooperation on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals. It invited the executive heads of WHO, ILO and UNEP to convene an intergovernmental meeting to consider the recommendations of a meeting of government-designated experts, held in London in December 1991, concerning the establishment of an intergovernmental forum on chemical risk assessment and management.

119. The Intersecretariat Coordinating Committee of IPCS, consisting of the representatives of the three organizations (WHO, ILO, UNEP) currently participating in IPCS, has initiated inter-agency consultations in order to examine the implications of the recommendation and invitation of the Conference. Both OECD and the European Community are also invited to take part in these consultations.

120. Preparations have been initiated by the executive heads of WHO, UNEP and ILO for convening the intergovernmental meeting, which is scheduled for 1994. It will be asked to examine proposed terms of reference and operating procedures for an intergovernmental mechanism on chemical risk assessment and management and to give policy guidance on achieving specific objectives called for in the implementation of the six programme areas in chapter 19 of Agenda 21. It is anticipated that one or two preparatory meetings of Governments will be held before the meeting itself; the first preparatory meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of November 1993. Within this process the ILO is giving special attention to facilitating action on the harmonization of systems of classification and labelling of toxic chemicals.

121. The United Nations technical assistance programme includes projects related to environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, particularly in relation to the mining industry through enhanced mineral resources programmes.

122. GATT's Council of Representatives decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Export of Domestically Prohibited Goods and Other Hazardous Substances in order to consider, inter alia, related provisions of Agenda 21.

123. IAEA leads inter-agency projects on risk management and on databases and methodologies for comparative assessment of energy systems. IAEA initiates and supports the conclusion and implementation of international legal instruments for the safe use of nuclear energy. Of special relevance to Agenda 21 are the Conventions on Early Notification and Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accidents or Radiological Emergencies and the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, and the nuclear safety convention (under negotiation). IAEA nuclear safety standards and associated safety services in the nuclear field take on a special importance in bringing nuclear facilities everywhere up to the highest possible safety standards.

124. IAEA actively supports research and training in monitoring pesticide residues and toxic chemicals using nuclear techniques. The large amounts of fertilizers which are being used present serious pollution problems. Isotope techniques are used to study fertilizer up-take and run-off in order to optimize their use and reduce the negative environmental impacts. Agenda 21 encourages support of IAEA's ongoing efforts to develop and promulgate radioactive waste management safety standards and guidelines, and calls for increased assistance to developing countries for capacity-building in this area.

125. The adoption by consensus of IAEA's Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste in 1990 underscores the political commitment of States to prevent any unauthorized transboundary movement of radioactive waste. IAEA is prepared to send experts on request to any member State requiring assistance related to radioactive waste problems, including any "dumping" of radioactive material.

III. CONCLUSIONS

126. The Commission on Sustainable Development, in monitoring progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and in the integration of environmental and developmental goals throughout the United Nations system, will be called upon to play an important role in advising the Economic and Social Council on ways and means to ensure better coordination and complementarity of efforts among all concerned organizations at the national, regional and international levels and, thus, in assisting the Council to discharge effectively its coordination role envisaged as in the Charter.

127. The Commission will also provide an important forum for reviewing the technical, advisory and financial assistance needed by countries from the United Nations system in support of national sustainable development efforts, and, accordingly, to elaborate action-oriented recommendations in this area.

128. During informal open-ended consultations organized by the Bureau of the Commission in April 1993, in accordance with decision II of its organizational session, an understanding has been reached that "the Commission, taking into account its multi-year thematic programme of work, would request the Economic and Social Council to invite relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and global environmental facilities, to prepare specific reports on their activities to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development with a particular focus on ongoing and future projects and initiatives. In that context the Commission would request the Secretary-General to prepare on an annual basis a consolidated analytical report which would synthesize information related to United Nations system activities to implement Agenda 21, outline gaps and assess progress achieved. Such a report would be considered by the Commission together with the report of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development and other relevant contributions of ACC. Reports of individual agencies might be made available to the Commission as background documents."

129. An understanding was also reached that the Commission would invite "relevant international, regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system to prepare and submit to the

Secretary-General reports on their activities related to sustainable development, with a particular focus on ongoing and future projects and initiatives, bearing in mind the multi-year thematic programme of work of the Commission. The Secretary-General would be requested to prepare on an annual basis a report containing an analytical summary of relevant activities of such organizations. This report will be considered by the Commission together with the reports mentioned above, with a view to elaborating policy recommendations aimed at ensuring effective collaboration and greater complementarity of activities of intergovernmental organizations both within and outside the United Nations system."

130. Although the Commission will need to take formal action on the above-mentioned recommendations, the Secretary-General believes that their implementation will enhance the effectiveness of the Commission on Sustainable Development and stands ready to prepare the reports and studies envisaged above.

Notes

1/ See "Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992" (A/CONF.151/26), vol. I, chap. I, annex II.

2/ The statement will appear in the report of the Administrative Committee for Coordination on its first regular session of 1993, which will be issued under the symbol ACC/1993/14.